

Docket No.: 614.1989

Serial No. 09/356,445

**REMARKS**

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 4, 6, 9-14, 20, 24, and 26 are allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 and 17-19 are rejected.

Claims 2, 16, 21-23, 25 and 27-30 are objected to.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 and 17-19 are amended and, as amended, are submitted to distinguish over the prior art.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing amended claims and, accordingly, it is submitted that the same are proper for entry herein and such action is earnestly solicited.

**REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 AND 17-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY YAMAMOTO**

Claims 1, 3, 8 and 15 are amended in the foregoing to clarify that each of the plurality of unit image groups is made up of a plurality of sequential images, that each of the plurality of unit image groups is defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer, and that each of the plurality of image groups is specified by attribute information corresponding to the one communication information indicated thereby.

Claims 5, 7 and 17 are amended to clarify that the unit image groups respectively represent an action of a character and is made up of sequential images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, and that each of the unit image groups is defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer by the action represented thereby.

Yamamoto merely proposes connecting a plurality of image frames to generate sequential character images. There is no concept of providing "unit image groups" in Yamamoto. Hence, there is no concept of specifying the "unit image groups" by the "attribute information" in Yamamoto.

With regard to independent claims 1, 3, 8 and 15, in the present invention, each of the plurality of unit image groups is made up of a plurality of sequential images. In addition, each of the plurality of unit image groups is defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer. Further, each of the plurality of image groups is specified by attribute information corresponding to the one communication information indicated thereby.

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With regard to independent claims 5, 7 and 17, in the present invention, the unit image groups respectively represent an action of a character and each is made up of sequential images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action. In addition, each of the unit image groups is defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer by the action represented thereby.

According to the present invention, it is possible to obtain a sequential character image that will indicate the desired communication information to the viewer by simply connecting the unit image groups that are specified by the attribute information, because each unit image group (made up of a plurality of sequential images) is defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information (corresponding to the attribute information) to the viewer.

Yamamoto fails to teach or even suggest the above described features and effects of the present invention.

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 15 and 17-19 are allowable over Yamamoto.

**ITEM 5: ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS 4, 6, 9-14, 20, 24 AND 26**

It is noted that claims 4, 6, 9-14, 20, 24 and 26 are allowable over the prior art of record.

However, claims 4, 6, 9-11 and 20 are amended hereinabove to improve form and without change in substance; hence, it is submitted that the allowability of the amended claims 4, 6, 9-11 and 20 remains unchanged.

**ITEM 6: OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 2, 16, 21-23, 25 AND 27-30**

Claims 2, 16, 21-23, 25 and 27-30 are indicated as being allowable, each if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any Intervening claims.

Claims 2, 21-23, 25 and 27-30 are amended to independent form, including all of the limitations of the corresponding base claims (but without the amendments referred above made in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)), of Item 4 of the Action.

It is submitted that claims 2, 16, 21-23, 25 and 27-30 are now allowable over the prior art of record.

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**CONCLUSION**

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims herein patentably distinguish over the rejections and the art of record and, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

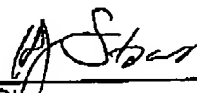
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,


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